



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022

No. 115

Senate

The Senate met at 10:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ELIZABETH WARREN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, grant to this Nation and to all people a social conscience built on the vision of the ancient prophets who saw sufficiency for people and a time when anxiety would be overcome by goodwill.

Lord, hasten the day when the small and weak can make their contributions alongside the great and powerful. Lead us to the day when we will see peace among the nations of the Earth, when swords shall be beaten into plowshares. Use the Members of this body to do Your will. Let Your glory cover the Earth as the waters cover the sea.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 13, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ELIZABETH WARREN, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. WARREN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

INFLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this morning, this all-Democratic government produced yet another absolutely terrible, terrible inflation report. Inflation during the month of June shattered the experts' predictions. We are now—listen to this—at 9.1 percent annual inflation; yet another fresh 40-year high, the most out-of-control inflation that American families have seen since the early 1980s. Food costs are up more than 10 percent. Energy costs are up more than 40 percent. The costs of the fuel that drives us to work, delivers our goods, and drives our economy are all up over 60 percent.

These are staggeringly—staggeringly—bad numbers. And they were fueled directly by the reckless spending spree that the Democrats rammed through on party lines just last year.

Remember, right before the \$2 trillion spending spree, President Biden said:

The biggest risk is not going too big . . . it's if we go too small.

The Senate Democratic leader said:

I do not think the dangers of inflation, at least in the near-term, are very real.

These were gigantic—gigantic—unforced errors. One leading economist recently said the so-called American Rescue Plan was “arguably the biggest fiscal policy mistake in several decades.”

Our core inflation rate here in America is more than 2 percentage points higher than in Europe. Inflation is uniquely bad here because our all-Democratic government has made uniquely bad choices. And now American families are dealing with the fallout every single day.

It is no secret how much the American people disapprove of the course Washington Democrats have put us on. They say so in poll after poll after poll. So you might think by now that our colleagues would be ready to try a different approach.

Well, guess again. President Biden and his party, fresh off of spending America into inflation, now want to tax-hike us into recession. They are behind closed doors playing around with what may amount to the single largest tax increase in American history. Tucked inside are exactly the sort of radical ideas that working families can least afford right now.

They want a giant tax hike on pass-through small businesses, a category—listen to this—that encompasses 95 percent of all businesses in the country—95 percent of them. Take it from a constituent of mine in Mount Sterling, KY, who put it this way:

Small business is already in a struggle to survive with all the taxes and regulations we have to deal with. Adding another tax is only making things worse.

Democrats also want a so-called “methane fee” that amounts to a big new tax hike on domestic natural gas, while their inflation has pushed American families' natural gas prices and electricity costs up through the roof already.

If following reckless spending and runaway inflation with a gigantic, painful tax hike sounds like a bad idea to you, believe me, you are not alone. Even some House Democrats are lighting their hair on fire over what a terrible idea these discussions are.

One House Democrat from New Jersey is telling reporters that she is “not

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S3245